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# NIGERIAN Tribune

News From Nigeria

 

## 40 die in boat accident - 2 brothers killed by lorry driver

From Celestine Ihejirika and Dapo Falade – 07.07.2009

ABOUT 40 people have reportedly drowned in a boat accident that occurred, on Sunday, in Jibu village, in Wukari Local Government Area of Taraba State.

An eyewitness told the Nigerian Tribune that the boat which was conveying the 40 people who were travelling to attend a naming ceremony, capsized in the middle of the river.

The passengers, who were said to be mainly women and children, were swept away by the river due to their inability to swim.

At the time of sending this report, 22 bodies were said to have been recovered.

Further findings by the Nigerian Tribune revealed that a majority of them would have been saved but for the absence of divers.

Nigerian Tribune also gathered that eight members of the same family perished in the accident.

It will be recalled that three people were last week, lynched over the alleged disappearance of a male genitals in Baissa, Kurmi Local Government Area.

Confirming the incident, the chairman of the council, Alhaji Ladan Umar, told the Nigerian Tribune that he had just been informed about the incident, as he was in Jalingo for a meeting, but said that he could not immediately ascertain the number of lives involved.

Speaking on the incident, the member representing the constituency in the state House of Assembly, Honourable Josiah Sabo Kente, told the Nigerian Tribune that the incident occurred while the people were trying to cross to the other side of the community to attend a naming ceremony.

When contacted, Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the Taraba State police command, Sani Baba, confirmed the accident.

Meanwhile, Nigerian Tribune investigation revealed that none of the occupants of the boat survived the accident and rescue workers were said to be busy searching for other bodies in the River Benue.

Efforts to reach the Taraba State police command for confirmation was not successful at press time.

It was an endless wailing at the Irona area of the Ado-Ekiti, on Monday afternoon when the driver of a lorry crushed to death two brothers who were returning home from school.

The two brothers, named Dayo and Tope Afolabi, were pupils of St. Thomas Aquinas Primary School, Irona and who were said to have lost their father barely a month ago, were about to cross the road to their house which was said to be some metres away when the truck coming from the opposite side lost control and ran over them, killing them on the spot.

When the Nigerian Tribune got to the scene of the accident, the spot where they were killed was filled with their, while parts of their flesh were sighted at the scene.

On getting to the scene of the accident after being informed, the unfortunate mother of the unlucky school children, said to be breastfeeding her newest baby, fainted immediately she was confronted with the sad news that it was indeed her children that were killed in the accident.

It, however, took the timely intervention of the numerous sympathisers who had gathered at the scene to revive the nursing mother who was crying uncontrollably.

The lorry, a Bedford with registration number, LAGOS XL 423 EKY, was said to be owned by one Kayode, a member of the Big Lorry Association, base in the state capital, but he was not at the wheel as at the time the accident occurred.

Describing the occurrence as horrible and unfortunate, an eyewitness who gave his name as Martins Akinluyi, said: "The lorry was coming from the Oke Ori-Omi area of the town but I can not really say what happened, because we were not suspecting anything until we saw the lorry running over the innocent children who were coming from school and trying to cross the road to their house."